

NEW SOUTH WALES.BUSINESS STATISTICS - 31st July, 1942.

13 AUG 1942

C O N T E N T S

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PART I - PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions. During the week ended July 22nd only light rain was recorded. There was no fall in the Western Division. During the following week light to moderate falls were recorded in all divisions, being heaviest on the Northern Tablelands and in the Hunter and Manning and South Coast divisions. In the two last-named areas the rainfall was timely.

Temperatures have been depressed and widespread frosts and some snow were recorded. The impression of phenomenally low temperatures has been caused by low maxima rather than low minima.

Crops generally are in good condition except in parts of the Riverina where a slight yellowing is due to excessive moisture. A report from the North West states that stock are in good condition. Lambing has been good to date but the two serious lambing diseases had appeared in the district.

A trust has been formed and registered in Sydney with the object of promoting research into the theory and practice of long-range weather forecasting.

Vegetables. Pests have been prevalent as a result of inadequate preparation of the land and prolific weed growth.

It has been estimated by the Department of Agriculture that vegetable supplies for civilians in the current year may be 15% below requirements. Excluding direct contracts between farmers and canneries 40,000 tons of vegetables valued at £400,000 are being grown in N.S.W. for the Forces. A conference was held on 22nd July on the question of employing prisoners of war to grow vegetables for an Army camp.

The restriction on sale and distribution of seeds of red beet, silver beet, carrots and swede turnips in bulk form has been removed. Reserve stocks will be held by merchants.

In Victoria there is a shortage of potatoes for export. The prices of potatoes are subject to control by the Prices Commissioner.

Meat. The number of young cattle slaughtered for veal is an important factor in future beef supply. The Minister for Commerce has appealed for a reduction in the slaughtering of vealers. If, as is likely in most cases, dairy farmers do not wish to retain vealers, it may be necessary to arrange for their transfer to other grazing areas. It is reported that the supply of beef cattle in Queensland is being depleted as a result of poor seasons, the greatly increased demand for earlier matured cattle, also by reason of the fact that on many properties sheep flocks have increased at the expense of cattle.

Wool. As from July 1st, 1942 the local user of wool is required to pay for wool supplied to him appraised prices plus 25% for shorn wool (17½% for skin wool). An additional 10% is a deferred charge, operative only in the event of overseas export of the woollen manufactures. In the previous year the local manufacturer paid only 15% above appraised prices for shorn wool.

Some of the new season's clips to hand are of less length than usual due to earlier shearing under the zoning scheme. The wools from the Western plains, however, generally are carrying less dust and vegetable fault than last year.

The fellmongering of skins is an important industry. Some eighteen to twenty million sheep and lambs are slaughtered in Australia annual. The current demand for fellmongering services is running ahead of operations and persons such as carcase butchers are inconvenienced.

The Central Wool Committee has appealed again to growers to increase the weight stowed into each bale in order to conserve woolpacks.

/Wheat.....

Wheat. Crop conditions are reported to be favourable. During July maximum prices of bread in city and suburban areas were gazetted. The prices for retail sales over the counter are 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per 2 lb. loaf in the inner city area and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in outer areas. Wholesale prices are 4/9 per doz. inner area and 5/- outer areas.

The first distillery for the extraction of alcohol from wheat has been officially inaugurated. The location of the N.S.W. plant, which will cost £400,000, is Cowra. Production is expected to begin next year. It will be built and operated by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. as agent for the Commonwealth Government. Each plant is expected to produce annually 3 million gallons of power alcohol from 1,250,000 bushels of wheat.

Discussion is taking place as to the possibility of raising over 30,000 pigs a year from the wheat residue. In food value, the residue may be equal to bran and pollard but definite information on this point is not yet available.

A report of July 28th gives official Argentine stocks of wheat as 197.7 m. bushels.

Prices of wheat are as follows:-

1. For local flour 3/11 $\frac{1}{4}$ per bus. trucks at terminal ports (unchanged).
2. Chicago July 27th - September futures, 119 $\frac{1}{8}$ cents per bushel.
3. Winnipeg, July 27th - October futures, 90 cents (unchanged).
4. London, July 27th - (a) Manitoba No. 1, ex Montreal, October, 37/3 per qr. (unchanged)
(b) Argentine; July-Aug., new crop, 26/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ f.o.b. (up -/7 $\frac{1}{2}$).
(c) Australian, July-Aug., old and new crops, 28/- f.o.b. (unchanged)

DAIRY PRODUCE.

The composition of ordinary butter is approximately 16% moisture, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % salt, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % solids (not fat) and 80% pure butterfat. The derivation of moisture-free butterfat therefore reduces weight by 20% and this commodity can be carried as ordinary cargo. The use of a new machine (the "New Way" machine) for reconstituting dry butterfat produces butter indistinguishable from butter made from cream in the ordinary way. A trial order from Britain for 400 tons of butterfat has been followed by a further order for 2,000 tons and an indication that up to 10,000 tons will be accepted for the 1942-43 export season. The P.D.S. in Sydney is establishing a plant to produce dry butterfat. The plant will be capable of treating all the low grade butters produced in New South Wales.

GENERAL.

During 1941/42 receipts of the N.S.W. Consolidated Revenue Fund, £32,993,367 exceeded the estimate by £368,513. "Miscellaneous Receipts" accounted for an excess of £47,000 and Stamp and Probate Duties for £258,000. "Receipts for Services Rendered" were £216,000 below the estimate. Other items showed smaller changes.

Payments from the C.R. Fund were £330,000 below the estimate and of this, "Ordinary Votes of Departments" accounted for £248,000. "Interest" absorbed £102,000 less than anticipated.

The revenue of Business Undertakings was £3,556,000 and expenditure £3,174,000 respectively, above the estimates. This result was due chiefly to the operations of the railways and tramways. The revenue of both the Maritime Services Board and Main Roads Department was higher and expenditure less than anticipated.

The State Governments following the decision of High Court in the uniform tax case have indicated their intention of vacating the income tax field for the duration of the war.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that the pay of the Services and allowances of dependants of Servicemen will be increased.

The War Injuries Compensation scheme has been amended. Volunteers and persons on compulsory civil defence duty or carrying on essential services during enemy action will be treated on the same basis. Benefits are payable irrespective of means. A widow of a civilian in one of the above classes killed by enemy action will be entitled to a maximum pension of £2/2/- p.w. plus 7/6 p.w. for each child. In all other cases, war injuries compensation for civilians will be payable, subject to a means test. Compensation payable to the widow of a civilian injured by enemy action while not on duty is limited to a maximum of 25/- p.w. plus 10/- for the first dependent child and 7/6 for other dependent children. Total income of the family of an injured married man must not exceed the maximum pension allowable by more than 25/- p.w.

Amounts payable to any civilian, injured as a result of enemy action, under any other Commonwealth or any State law will be taken into account in determining pensions payable.

The Joint Committee on Social Security has recommended to the Commonwealth Parliament a post-war housing plan for the construction of 52,000 houses a year for eight years.

The Annual report of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board discloses indebtedness to the State Government of £12.8m. and to other bodies £27.6m. Subject to determination by the Auditor-General, a remission of £1,004,730 of the debt will be made by the State. Interest absorbed £1,755,600 in 1941/42 equal to slightly more than half the total revenue of the Board.

There are now 371,089 houses connected with the Board's supply, representing an estimated population of 1,554,298. Average consumption of water per capital was 41.7 gals. a day in 1941/42 compared with 49.8 gals. a day in the previous year. Restrictions on the use of water had been made more stringent. The storage position at 29,000 m. gals is 2,000 m. gals. better than last year, but 7,000 m. gals. below storage at the same date in July, 1940.

A recent decision granted war loadings (6/- a week for adult males, 5/- females) to approximately 7,000 rubber workers in New South Wales and Victoria. Shearers in one district are threatening to strike unless an increase of 7/- a hundred sheep is granted. The present rate is 38/- per 100. Theatrical employees are seeking increased wages.

The "C" Series Index Numbers of Retail Prices (cost of food, groceries, clothing and housing) in six capital cities increased by 17.9% from September Quarter 1939 to June Qr. 1942. Retail Prices of clothing increased by 53.7 per cent during the period and food by 11.4 per cent. The prices of imported clothing and raw

materials have increased greatly and wage rates in the local clothing manufacturing trade are much higher than before the war.

Recently food prices have tended to rise, particularly potatoes, meat and onions. Sales Tax and Excise Duty on certain items included in the cost of living have increased. A table of "C" Series index numbers was published in B.S. 1942/7B.

Reports have been made that a "black" market exists in certain commodities including potatoes and scarce vegetables.

Prices were fixed recently for book matches. The price of prime quality tallow in Melbourne has been fixed at £27/10/- a ton.

Increased charges have been authorized for dry-cleaning garments.

Regulations which came into force on 27th July restricted styles and types of apparel which may be manufactured. Totally prohibited items include:- suits, other than "Victory" style (i.e. without waistcoats, cuffs, buttons on sleeves etc.); evening and dinner suits and frocks; sports outfits such as riding breeches and ski suits; bloomers; men's socks, other than plain and in the three regulation shades; women's stockings, other than in service-weight rayon with cotton toes, heels and undersoles.

Additional clothing rations are to be issued to persons in heavy industries, doctors, dentists etc. requiring special garments. A low coupon rating will be applied to garments necessary for certain occupations.

Returns are being collected from all persons who held at 30th June, 1942, more than two months' stock of woven woollen materials including imported and Australian manufactured cloth. Information is required as to sales during the year and the amounts obtained from each Australian and oversea supplier.

Perambulator designs have been limited to three and the new designs will have no mudguards or storm covers, only plain tyres and springs and no wicker work.

A National Security Regulation gives the Minister for Home Security power to restrict or prohibit the use of paint or colouring substances.

SAVINGS BANKS AND WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

Following the trend of recent months, savings bank deposits in N.S.W. again increased substantially in June, 1942. In April, May and June 1942, the respective increases were (£m.):— 1.65, 1.82, 1.61. During June the Second Liberty Loan was raised and such operations are commonly associated with a temporary decline in deposits. On the other hand, war loan publicity usually results in higher purchases of War Savings Certificates. This is illustrated by the high purchases during Feb.-Mar. 1942 when the First Liberty Loan was raised and the decline in April 1942. Net sales of W.S. Certificates in N.S.W. had amounted to £8.922m. by the end of April, 1942.

SAVINGS BANKS & WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

End of Month	Number of Savings Bank Accounts.	Savings Bank Deposits.	Savings Banks Deposits - Increase from preceding month.	War Savings Certificates - Monthly purchases less repayments.
	000	£000	£000	£000
1939-Aug.	1,315	86,957	(-) 244	(First issued March 1940).
1940-June	1,313	82,111	(-) 3,069	1,940
1941- "	1,340	87,750	1,654	392
1942- "	1,379	94,538	1,613	x
1942-Jan.	1,397	92,973	1,315	239
Feb.	1,379	90,647	(-) 2,326	337
Mar.	1,340	89,459	(-) 1,188	340
Apr.	1,351	91,111	1,652	210
May.	1,366	92,925	1,815	x
June	1,379	94,538	1,613	x

x Not available.

BANK CLEARINGS.

The total amount of bank clearings (excl. Treasury Bill transactions) in Sydney in June was £116.6m. compared with £98.9m. a month earlier and £97.4m. in June, 1941. During June, 1942, the Second Liberty Loan was raised.

The index number of bank clearings, which is calculated after excluding Treasury Bill and loan transactions, was 133 for the three months ended June, 1942, as compared with 120 in 1941. The index is based on the average clearings for the corresponding period in the years 1926-30 and no allowance is made for the growth of population or changes in price levels. The movement in retail and wholesale price levels in recent years is shown by tables published in previous issues of Business Statistics (See e.g. B.S. 1942/7A and 1942/7B).

BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.Excl. Treasury Bill Transactions.

Year	AMOUNT		INDEX NUMBER (Base : Av. corresp. period 1926-30)	
	Monthly Average.	June.	Three months ended June.	Calendar Year.
	£m.	£m.		
1938	78.5	86.8	106	101
1939	77.7	80.3	101	100
1940	89.6	94.5	115	113
1941	94.9	97.4	123	120
1942	-	116.6	133	-

STOCK EXCHANGE - SHARE PRICES.

Share prices in June, 1942 continued their upward trend of the two previous months. The index of the prices of 34 active shares was 157, the same as in February last, before the temporary suspension of share transactions. Recovery has lagged in the case of the shares of public utilities and insurance companies.

The index of share prices published by the Sydney Stock Exchange (34 active shares 1934 = 100) declined slightly in July, 1942. The index number was 105.08 on 1st July and 103.82 on July 30th. Daily turnover has been small and the tone of the market is steady.

STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par value = 100.

Average for Month.	Manufacturing and Distributing.	Retail Trade	Public Utilities.	Pastoral and finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies.	34 Active Shares.
1931 - Sept.	72	60	88	75	121	74(a)	77
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190(b)	201
1940 - June	187	138	129	110	233	151	160
1941 - June	214	163	134	119	251	166	180
Dec.	204	160	138	118	241	161	171
1942 - Feb. ^x	187	148	133	115	224	150	157
Mar. ^x	173	138	121	110	214	141	147
May	178	143	115	115	213	143	153
June	184	146	117	116	216	147	157

(a) Lowest point.
(b) Highest point.

x Share transactions ceased from 29th Feb. to 10th March 1942 inclusive.

A loan of £300,000 (renewal) sought by the Melbourne Board of Works was quickly subscribed. The terms of issue were par at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 15 years.

MORTGAGE RATES.

The weighted average rate of interest on private first mortgages registered in N.S.W. rose from 4.8% in May to 4.9% in June, 1942 in the case of rural securities. The rate on urban securities remained at the same level - 5.4%.

N.S.W. PRIVATE FIRST MORTGAGES REGISTERED - WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE.

PERIOD.	RURAL						URBAN.					
	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Three months ended:-												
Apr.	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.5
May	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4
June	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4
Calendar Year	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9	-	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.5	-

(Excludes Mortgages to Banks & Government and excludes renewals and collaterals.)

REAL ESTATE.

Real estate sales and mortgages registered were slightly higher in June, 1942 than in the previous month but in each case the totals were less than half the corresponding totals in June, 1941.

There is a keen market for good class cottages ranging from £375 to £1,500. Values are stiffening but are kept within limits by regulation. Factories or buildings suitable for adaptation for industrial purposes are in keen demand.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - N.S.W.

Period	Sales.				Mortgages (a)			
	Year	April	May	June	Year	April	May	June
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
1925-29	55,428	4,619 ^(b)	4,619 ^(b)	4,619 ^(b)	48,504	4,042 ^(b)	4,042 ^(b)	4,042 ^(b)
1938	37,419	2,770	3,989	2,898	26,967	2,359	2,727	2,604
1939	32,157	2,245	3,090	2,613	22,444	2,025	2,112	1,658
1940	31,053	2,392	2,908	2,464	16,497	1,560	1,449	1,305
1941	33,239	2,574	2,835	3,029	15,630	1,305	1,324	1,273
1942	-	2,276	1,154	1,266	-	891	526	599

(a) Including renewals.

(b) Monthly Average.

EMPLOYMENT.

Excluding rural employees and household domestics, the numbers of wage-earners employed in N.S.W. at the end of May, 1942, were 554,200 males and 222,300 females, a total of 776,500. The corresponding total a month earlier was 779,200.

Government and semi-government of employment of both males and females continues to expand.

The total number of males employed in non-rural occupations continues to decline. From April to May, 1942 the decrease was 2,800. Since November last the total decrease in male wage-earners employed in non-rural industries has been approximately 21,000. The number called-up for Army service has exceeded this figure. Some have been drawn from rural industries and some wage-earners called-up from non-rural industries have been replaced by men not previously engaged as wage-earners.

NEW SOUTH WALES.ESTIMATED TOTAL WAGE-EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT (EXCL. RURAL EMPLOYEES AND HOUSEHOLD DOMESTICS).

Month	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Government (C'wlth., State & Local).	Private Employ- ers.	Total	Government (C'wlth., State & Local).	Private Employ- ers.	Total	Government (C'wlth., State & Local).	Private Employ- ers.	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1933 June	103.2	275.7	378.9	16.8	101.8	118.6	120.0	377.5	497.5
1939 July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941 July	141.5	423.1	564.6	21.7	185.0	206.7	163.2	608.1	771.3
Aug.	142.1	427.2	569.3	22.1	185.2	207.3	164.2	612.4	776.6
Sept.	143.4	432.7	576.1	22.4	187.9	210.3	165.8	620.6	786.4
Oct.	143.7	432.1	575.8	22.7	190.2	212.9	166.4	622.3	788.7
Nov.	144.3	431.2	575.5	23.0	193.0	216.0	167.3	624.2	791.5
Dec.	146.4	428.2	574.6	23.4	193.7	217.1	169.8	621.9	791.7
1942 Jan.	146.1	420.8	566.9	23.8	191.5	215.3	169.9	612.3	782.2
Feb.	147.2	416.8	564.0	24.6	194.9	219.5	171.8	611.7	783.5
Mar.	148.9	411.7	560.6	25.0	195.2	220.2	173.9	606.9	780.8
Apr.	151.1	405.9	557.0	26.2	196.0	222.2	177.3	601.9	779.2
May	151.5	402.7	554.2	26.9	195.4	222.3	178.4	598.1	776.5

(Excludes relief workers and persons enlisted in the Forces and Women's Auxiliaries.)

The following table shows the trend of employment in certain broad industrial classifications. The numbers shown do not represent the total numbers of persons employed in the specified industry groups. Employees of State Government and semi-government bodies are included under "All Employers" and in the appropriate industry column when separate returns are supplied, e.g. the Railways Dept. is included under "Transport" as well as under "All Employers".

The decline in numbers of males employed by private employers in retail trade, commerce and other industries continues. Females engaged in shops in N.S.W. where the wages bill exceeds £20 a week declined by 600 from April to May, 1942. In May a quota was placed on sales of clothing.

NEW SOUTH WALES..EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED ON PAY
ROLL TAX RETURNS.

Last pay-day in Month.	EMPLOYEES RECORDED BY:-						
	All Employ-ers furnish-ing returns.	Employers whose main activity was:-					
		Mining & Quarrying.	Workshop & Factory	Building & Construction	Trans-port	Retail Trade	Other Com-merce & Fin-ance.

M A L E S - '000

1941-July	483.2	21.7	201.6	20.5	77.5	31.6	47.2
Dec.	491.6	21.7	205.7	17.7	84.6	31.6	46.5
1942-Jan.	482.2	21.3	204.2	18.7	82.7	29.9	45.4
Feb.	480.2	21.2	204.3	19.8	82.5	29.1	44.3
Mar.	477.5	21.1	203.9	19.6	82.7	28.2	43.4
Apr.	474.8	20.9	202.4	18.7	84.4	27.4	42.6
May	471.5	21.0	202.3	18.1	84.9	26.2	41.2

F E M A L E S - '000

1941-July	164.9	0.2	75.7	0.5	3.2	31.7	18.9
Dec.	174.8	0.2	78.6	0.5	3.6	35.1	20.4
1942-Jan.	171.7	0.2	77.8	0.5	3.7	32.6	20.8
Feb.	175.5	0.2	80.1	0.5	3.8	33.3	21.1
Mar.	176.5	0.2	81.1	0.5	3.9	32.9	21.1
Apr.	177.3	0.2	80.6	0.5	3.9	33.4	21.4
May	177.1	0.2	80.9	0.5	4.0	32.8	21.4

T O T A L - '000

1941-July	648.1	21.9	277.3	21.0	80.7	63.3	66.1
Dec.	666.4	21.9	284.3	18.2	88.2	66.7	66.9
1942-Jan.	653.9	21.5	282.0	19.2	86.4	62.5	66.2
Feb.	655.7	21.4	284.4	20.3	86.3	62.4	65.4
Mar.	653.9	21.3	285.0	20.1	86.6	61.1	64.5
Apr.	652.1	21.1	283.0	19.2	88.3	60.8	64.0
May	648.6	21.2	283.2	18.6	88.9	59.0	62.6

(Pay Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (other than the Commonwealth Government, charities etc. paying wages of more than £20 p.wk. Employees absent on military service are excluded from the returns.)

Employment in building and construction, as shown in the above table, has been declining for several months. These figures exclude large numbers of men engaged by Government authorities for construction work.

Pay-Roll Tax returns relating to workshops and factories refer almost exclusively to private establishments and annexes attached thereto. Within this group, in which total employment has declined by 1.6% since November, 1941, the metal, vehicle and aircraft industries have consistently expanded. These "War" industries were employing 8.5% more persons in May, 1942 than in November, 1941. The only other factory class in which more persons were employed in May than in the previous November was textiles which employed 7% more.

Employment in all factories in N.S.W. (i.e. incl. C/wealth Govt.) increased from 296,500 in April, 1942 to 297,100 in May. The corresponding figure in November, 1941 was 295,100 (vide Table in B/S 7B).

MANPOWER NOTES.

The employment of women as meter readers and testers, lorry drivers, storemen, cleaners and tracers by the largest electricity supply undertaking in N.S.W. has been approved by the Women's Employment Board. Approval also has been obtained by the Railways Commissioner to employ women in sixteen additional callings, including car cleaners, messengers, store usefals, lorry drivers and ticket collectors.

Lack of accommodation is retarding employment of Land Army girls in Victoria. However, there are some 150 working on the land and an additional 250 are working in flax mills.

Tramway and omnibus (male) employees in N.S.W. are not in favour of employment of women as conductors, although other cities are employing women conductors.

Because of pressure on drivers and vehicles the postal authorities will not clear at night certain suburban letter boxes.

The Commonwealth Technical training scheme has turned out 36,642 skilled men for the Services and industry. A further 10,563 are now under going training. About 3,000 a month are being turned out.

More than 1,000 men in military classes 1,2 and 3 have been released for Army service from 78 "protected" firms examined by the Manpower authorities. They were working in unskilled jobs. In addition skilled men have been made available for transfer to more important defence work.

Builders and contractors have to notify the Allied Works Council by August 5th, the names, ages and addresses of all their employees. Aliens aged 18-60, residing in Australia must register for national service. They may be called-up for construction work. About 8,000 refugees and non-refugees are affected. Manpower authorities will decide whether their present occupations are of greater national importance.

Many men, mostly over 50 have suffered from physical strain after being drafted into labouring work from less strenuous occupations. In future more men under 45 will be called-up for the Civil Construction Corps by drawing on military class 4 - ages 35 - 45, married or widowers with children. Some re-examination of reserved occupations may be necessary.

RAILWAYS.PART III - TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIES.

Passengers carried in May, 1942 - 19.2 millions - showed an increase of 600,000 over the previous month. An additional 57,000 tons of goods and livestock were carried. Over the eleven months period ended May, passenger traffic was 13.3% greater and tonnage of goods and livestock carried was 2.9% greater in 1941/42 than in the previous financial year. The excess of revenue over expenses improved by 3.27%.

The Commissioner for Railways, commenting on the results for the whole of 1941/42, stated that the heavy traffic handled, allied with difficulties of procuring staff and materials, had affected to some extent the high standard of maintenance but adequate financial provision had been made.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	MONTH OF MAY.			ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED MAY.		
	Passenger Journeys	Tonnage of goods and Livestock	Excess of Revenue over Work-ing Expenses ^φ	Passenger Journeys	Tonnage of goods and Livestock	Excess of Revenue over Work-ing Expenses ^φ
	million	'000	£000	million	'000	£000
1939	15.6	1,478	622	171.9	13,986	4,832
1940+	14.3	725	141	163.6	13,178	5,329
1941	16.7	1,515	237	176.0	16,588	6,729
1942	19.2	1,645	244	199.4	17,075	6,949

^φ Excl. interest sinking fund and exchange, which amounted to £m.6.56 in 1939/40 and £m.6.42 in 1940/42.

+ Coal strike March 11 - May 17, 1940, adversely affected operating results.

Although nearly 220m. passengers were carried in 1941/42 there was not one passenger fatally injured.

The operating staff of the railways has been working 13 shifts a fortnight instead of 12 and many men having been working 60 to 75 hours a week. The effects of fatigue have been felt by the Staff. Clerical work has been reduced to a minimum and other work curtailed where possible.

ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Passengers carried in May 1942 numbered 42.1 million, a record figure apart from the months of December 1941 and January 1942 when many holiday-makers were carried. For the eleven months of the financial year the number of passengers carried - 442 millions - was 18.5% above the previous year. The excess of revenue over expenses was lower by £30,000. Operating costs are higher.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY & NEWCASTLE.

Year	MONTH OF MAY				ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED MAY.			
	Earnings	Work- ing Expenses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses £	Passengers	Earnings	Work- ing Es- penses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses £	Passengers.
	£000	£000	£000	million	£000	£000	£000	million
1939	380	314	66	32.6	4,022	3,388	634	344
1940	370	301	69	31.5	4,110	3,434	676	348
1941	422	346	76	36.2	4,391	3,550	841	373
1942	477	403	74	42.1	4,996	4,185	811	442

£ Excl. interest, sinking fund, exchange and current depreciation which amounted to £m.0.67 in 1939/40 and £m.0.66 in 1940/41.

MOTOR REGISTRATIONS..

The number of vehicles on the registers was again less at the end of June, 1942 than at the end of the previous month. Commercial vehicles showed a big drop. New registrations of motor vehicles in June were 30, about the same as in previous months. New lorries and vans registered were only four.

Some 300 motorists are using town gas as motor fuel. The opening of further supply points may increase the number; until recently supplies were available to motorists of Sydney only in northern suburbs. The Australian Gas Light Company reports that its resources are being fully taxed due to the industrial demand for gas.

By June, 1942, some 36,000 vehicles in Australia were operating on producer gas. About 3,000 units were being fitted each month. In N.S.W. the number of permits to fit units issued from December 1941, to 24th July, 1942 was 8,301. Currently about 200 a week are being fitted while N.S.W. manufacturers' output capacity is stated to be 514 a week.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

	Total number registered at end of month.			Average weekly number of new vehicles registered (excl. trailers).		
	Cars	Lorries & Vans.	Total, incl. other vehicles	Cars (incl. cabs & omnibuses)	Lorries & Vans.	Total (excludes motor cycles & traders' plates)
	'000	'000	'000			
1939-Aug.	217	78	329	322	146	468
1940-June	210	76	318	115	70	185
1941-June	203	75	311	40	40	80
1942-June	170	71	268	26	4	30
1941-Nov.	191	75	298	39	50	89
Dec.	189	76	295	34	60	94
1942-Mar.	173	73	274	13	19	32
Apr.	171	72	271	16	16	32
May	170	72	269	17	10	27
June	170	71	268	26	4	30

(Excludes military vehicles).

An order gazetted on 21st July, 1942, gave the Commonwealth Land Transport Board wide powers over vehicles and their use. Any vehicle, fuel, spare parts, beasts of burden and food for same may be requisitioned. The owner of a vehicle may be required to maintain it in good order at a specified place or to deliver specified goods or carry persons where directed. A vehicle fitted with a gas producer unit may not be disposed of without permission.